

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 8, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 23, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 13, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 72

Introduced by Senator Maldonado

(Coauthor: Senator Bowen)

(Coauthor: Assembly Member Blakeslee)

January 13, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 72—Relative to the Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway, *and to the Marilyn Jorgenson Reece Memorial Interchange.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 72, as amended, Maldonado. Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway *and the Marilyn Jorgenson Reece Memorial Interchange.*

This measure would designate a portion of State Highway Route 101 in San Luis Obispo County as the Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway. *The measure would also designate the Interstate 10 and Interstate 405 interchange in Los Angeles as the Marilyn Jorgenson Reece Memorial Interchange.* The measure would ~~also~~ request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers showing ~~that these special designation~~ *designations*, and upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those plaques and markers.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Vernon L. Sturgeon was born on October 1,
2 1915, in Chandler, Arizona, and was one of 10 children born to
3 George and Josephine Sturgeon; and

4 WHEREAS, Vernon L. Sturgeon attended schools in Paso
5 Robles and followed in his father's footsteps as a milk distributor
6 in San Luis Obispo County for 20 years; and

7 WHEREAS, Vernon L. Sturgeon served on the Paso Robles
8 City Council for eight years and as the Mayor of the City of Paso
9 Robles for three years; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1961, Vernon L. Sturgeon was elected to the
11 State Senate for Senate District 29, and served in the Legislature
12 until 1966, when that district was reapportioned; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1966, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon became a
14 key advisor to Governor Ronald Reagan and, in 1967, became
15 the Governor's Legislative Liaison Officer, and also served as
16 Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon was appointed by
18 Governor Reagan to the Public Utilities Commission in 1969,
19 and was later reappointed by Governor Jerry Brown, making him
20 one of the few people to be appointed to the same position by
21 both governors. Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon served on the
22 commission until 1979, which included a three-year term as
23 president of the commission; and

24 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon was a philanthropist
25 who, while a milk distributor, provided milk to those who could
26 not afford to pay for it; and

27 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon played a significant
28 role in securing the temporary site for the original Cuesta
29 College, and was instrumental in securing funds for a number of
30 projects at California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo.
31 Also, through his efforts, the library at Hearst Castle was made
32 available to University of California students for research; and

33 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon died on November 7,
34 2004, was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Esther, in
35 1990, and was survived by their daughters Elaine Healey and
36 Carolyn Rexius, son Rick Sturgeon, brother Wilmer Sturgeon,
37 sister Mildred Barclay, eight grandchildren, and 11
38 great-grandchildren; and

39 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon carried the
40 appropriations bill in the Senate for funding the construction of

1 State Highway Route 46 from Paso Robles to the coast in San
2 Luis Obispo County; and

3 WHEREAS, It would be a fitting tribute to Senator Vernon L.
4 Sturgeon to name a portion of State Highway Route 101 between
5 the Cities of Paso Robles and Atascadero in San Luis Obispo
6 County as the “Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway”; ~~now,~~
7 ~~therefore, be it~~

8 WHEREAS, Marilyn Jorgenson Reece was born and raised in
9 North Dakota and earned a bachelor’s degree in civil
10 engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1948; and

11 WHEREAS, Marilyn Jorgenson Reece moved to Los Angeles
12 with her parents shortly after graduation in 1948, and went to
13 work for the State Division of Highways, which later become the
14 Department of Transportation, as a junior civil engineer in Los
15 Angeles; and

16 WHEREAS, After six years of experience required to sit for the
17 Professional Engineers Exam, Marilyn Jorgenson Reece became
18 the state’s first fully licensed female civil engineer in 1954; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1962, Marilyn Jorgenson Reece received the
20 Governor’s Design Excellence Award from Governor Pat Brown
21 for designing the Interstate 10 and Interstate 405 interchange;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Marilyn Jorgenson Reece became the Division of
24 Highway’s firsts woman resident engineer for construction
25 projects shortly after receiving that award; and

26 WHEREAS, The three-level Interstate 10 and Interstate 405
27 interchange designed by Marilyn Jorgenson Reece opened in
28 1964 and was the first interchange designed in California by a
29 woman engineer; and

30 WHEREAS, Urban critic Reyner Banham, author of Los
31 Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies, admired the
32 wide-swinging curved ramps connecting the two freeways, and
33 wrote that the Interstate 10 and Interstate 405 interchange “is a
34 work of art, both as a pattern on the map, as a monument against
35 the sky, and as a kinetic experience as one sweeps through it”;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, During her 35-year career, Marilyn Jorgenson
38 Reece’s projects included serving as senior engineer for the
39 completion of State Highway Route 210 through Sunland in

1 1975—at the time, the largest construction project the Department
2 of Transportation had ever awarded—at \$40 million; and

3 WHEREAS, After retiring in 1983, Marilyn Jorgenson Reece
4 taught engineering classes at Cal State Long Beach; and

5 WHEREAS, During Women’s History Month in 1983, the Los
6 Angeles City Council honored Marilyn Jorgenson Reece for
7 making significant contributions to the city; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1991, Marilyn Jorgenson Reece received life
9 membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers; now,
10 therefore be it

11 Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly
12 thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby officially
13 designates that portion of State Highway Route 101 between
14 Spring Street in Paso Robles and Santa Barbara Road in
15 Atascadero in San Luis Obispo County, as the Vernon L.
16 Sturgeon Memorial Highway; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Legislature hereby officially designates
18 the Interstate 10 and Interstate 405 interchange, also known as
19 the San Diego-Santa Monica Freeway Interchange, in the City of
20 Los Angeles, as the Marilyn Jorgenson Reece Memorial
21 Interchange; and be it further

22 Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested
23 to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers,
24 consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway
25 system, showing—~~this special designation~~ these special
26 designations, and upon receiving donations from nonstate
27 sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect those plaques and
28 markers; and be it further

29 Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
30 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
31 author for appropriate distribution.

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